

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



Capitalism is the crisis

Democrats fiddle as climate emergency grows

By Scott Scheffer

The consequences of a century's worth of industrial capitalist destruction of the atmosphere continued lashing out at the earth in late October. A "bomb cyclone" attacked the U.S. West Coast, while a nor'easter slammed the Northeast.

The damaging weather from the west then sped clear across the country after causing floods and mudslides. Tornadoes and thunderstorms rocked the region known as Tornado Alley, from South Dakota all the way south to Texas.

On the East Coast, from as far south as North Carolina and all the way north, thunderstorms with winds clocked in between 60 and 100 miles per hour. In New England, a storm surge of three to four feet knocked out power to well over 500,000 people.

The extreme weather of 2021 has surpassed so many previous records. It has been severe and frequent.

The most important international conference on climate change since the Paris Climate Accords were reached in 2015 began in Glasgow, Scotland, on Oct. 31. The White House was counting on getting an assortment of climate change proposals included in a broader spending bill through Congress before Glasgow – to avoid international embarrassment.

The U.S. is the worst per capita emitter of greenhouse gases in the world and hasn't moved forward in its commitments. Biden has to present a puffed-up picture of progress. Negotiations with a handful of right-wing members of his own party sent Biden and other U.S. representatives to Glasgow empty-handed.

The Build Back Better spending bill was initially proposed with a price tag of \$3.5 trillion. Along with a handful of



Protesters dressed as President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a climate demonstration in Glasgow, Nov. 1.

other Democrats, Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia has beaten that down to \$1.75 trillion, and is still pushing for more cuts.

Manchin himself was already a coal baron before he became a U.S. senator. He's raked in more than \$5 million since then. In April he was made chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in a bipartisan vote. That should be seen as a major conflict of interest, but it doesn't raise any eyebrows in Washington. There's plenty of that in capitalist government.

Alongside programs that would be key to mitigating climate change, the bill would have boosted crucial social services like paid family leave, student debt relief, child nutrition, an expansion of Medicare and Medicaid, and more. The spat within the Democratic Party has put all of that on the chopping block.

Manchin, the senator from Big Coal, says he wants the total spending bill cut to just \$1.5 trillion.

CEPP on cutting room floor

Also left on the cutting room floor as of this writing is the Climate Energy Performance Program (CEPP). That

proposal would have paid power generators incrementally to switch to wind, solar, hydro or nuclear power instead of coal or diesel. It would have imposed penalties for non-compliance.

CEPP was the flagship among the climate change proposals included in the spending bill, and the Biden administration was counting on it to happen before Glasgow.

The overall bill is framed in the media as grand and ambitious, but it doesn't live up to the urgency of the climate crisis. None of these climate change proposals go after the profits of the giant U.S. banks or energy industry. The CEPP came the closest — and that was too close for comfort from the point of view of Big Capital. Manchin is their attack dog.

The congressional group aligned against the bill used phony concern over deficit spending — a favorite of the right-wing — as a cover story. It's really the profits of giant corporations that they're defending.

The money is there. Much of it is locked away in the bloated military budget with near-unanimous bipartisan support. U.S. military spending over the same 10-year period projected in the Build Back Better spending bill will add up to at least \$8 trillion — and that's a conservative guess, because there will be increases.

But Pentagon spending is considered untouchable, as are the trillions of dollars in the coffers of the tiny handful of corporate owners that dominate the world.

Their wealth far outstrips that of the rest of the population of the planet.

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NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

Dedicated to Moonanum James, Bert Waters, and others who have returned to the ancestors.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!

We welcome all our relations crossed by the U.S. border & ICE.

In 2021, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.



52ND ANNUAL
NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

NOV. 25, 2021

12:00 NOON

Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at [Facebook.com/groups/UAINE](https://www.facebook.com/groups/UAINE) for updates.
E-mail: info@uaine.org Website: [Uaine.org](https://www.Uaine.org)

Their elections and our struggle

By Stephen Millies

What do the Nov. 2 election results mean for poor and working people?

In the Virginia governor's race, Republican Glenn Youngkin beat Democrat Terry McAuliffe by 80,000 votes. In New Jersey, the Democratic incumbent Gov. Phil Murphy narrowly defeated Republican challenger Jack Ciattarelli.

Joe Biden beat Donald Trump by 450,000 votes in Virginia and by 725,000 votes in New Jersey. A year later, Biden and the Democratic majority in Congress have done nothing that would inspire people to go to the polls.

No increase in the minimum wage. No expansion of Medicare and Medicaid. No cut in prescription prices. No subsidies for child care.

Congress is refusing to pass these items that are needed by people.

Biden could still issue an executive order to freeze payments on student loans. Over \$1.5 trillion is owed by 43 million people. That's an average of \$36,510 of debt per person.

Wall Street would howl. Forty-three million voters would feel some relief.

Republican candidates instead felt free to use racism and attacks on transgender people to win votes. That's what Glenn Youngkin did in Virginia.

Youngkin's campaign ran a TV ad featuring a white woman lamenting that her son was forced to read "Be-loved" in school. The famous novel was written by the late Toni Mor-

rison, the only Black woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

Meanwhile, Fox News and Republicans across the country attacked immigrants. Yet it's the Biden administration that has sent refugees back to Haiti.

Both Youngkin and Ciattarelli attacked "critical race theory." That's teaching the truth about the African Holocaust and the Holocaust of Indigenous peoples.

It wasn't accidental that on the same election day, the Virginia counties of Mathews and Middlesex voted overwhelmingly to keep their confederate statues.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic helped Youngkin and Ciattarelli as well. Both candidates attacked the safety measures that are needed to defeat the coronavirus.

As racist as Youngkin's campaign appeals were, he also said he would abolish Virginia's sales tax on groceries. People have to pay a 2.5% tax on food.

A dozen other states outrageously tax food, including Mississippi. The poorest state in the U.S. makes poor people pay a 7% tax on food.

When McAuliffe was governor he kept this awful tax. So did the other Democratic governors in Virginia.

Democracy for the rich

These elections proved once again that the United States has the best democracy money can buy. Youngkin poured \$21 million of his \$480 million fortune into his campaign. The Democrat McAuliffe had bil-



A measure to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department won 62,813 votes, nearly 44% of the total votes.

lionaire donors as well.

Youngkin was the co-CEO of the Carlyle Group, a Wall Street outfit that has \$16 billion in assets. He praised Virginia's union-busting "right-to-work" law and opposed a \$15 minimum wage.

New Jersey Gov. Murphy also made a fortune on Wall Street. The Democrat ran the Frankfurt and Hong Kong offices of Goldman Sachs, a bank with assets of \$2.1 trillion. Murphy poured in \$20 million of his dough to win the 2017 Democratic primary.

Besides the Republican victory in Virginia, Republicans also defeated Democrats for several offices in Nassau and Suffolk counties in New York. Both counties are suburbs of New York City.

The Democratic Party establishment will use these defeats to attack the "Squad" and any other progressive member of Congress. This turns things inside out.

What were the Democrats doing running former Governor McAuliffe in Virginia? He was known for being a longtime fundraiser for the Clintons and chaired Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign when she ran against Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.

McAuliffe also carried out the last three executions in Virginia. The state's death penalty was abolished under current Gov. Ralph Northam.

How was McAuliffe's record supposed to motivate people to vote? If the Democrats had run a Black candidate in the state that established slavery in 1619, it would have been harder for Youngkin to launch his racist appeals.

Organize!

Particularly painful was the defeat of India Walton, who was running for mayor of Buffalo, N.Y. Although the Black woman won the Democratic primary, Walton ran as a socialist with a progressive program against displacement and development for the rich.

Walton was defeated in the general election by the incumbent mayor, Byron Brown, who waged a write-in campaign. Millions of dollars were spent on ads attacking Walton.

The capitalist media is also emphasizing that a measure to abolish the police in Minneapolis and replace it with a Department of Public Safety went down in defeat. But this measure won 62,813 votes, nearly 44% of the total.

Who would have thought a few years ago that an anti-police initiative would have gotten so many votes? George Floyd's death was not in vain.

The future can be seen in the socialist campaign of Cathy Rojas for mayor of New York City. The candidate of the Party for Socialism and Liberation got over 25,000 votes — 2.5% of the total.

Rojas and her supporters distributed leaflets and put up posters throughout the city. The campaign called for defunding the police and housing for all.

The racism and bigotry peddled by Glenn Youngkin and other reactionary candidates is dangerous. But it won't create jobs with decent wages or prevent inflation.

The future is struggle. Striketo-ber is becoming Strikevember. We need to organize more than ever before. [M]

Unemployed workers will continue to fight

By Unemployed Workers Union

Baltimore, Nov. 3—The Unemployed Workers Union strongly disagrees with Circuit Court Judge John Nugent's order to dismiss our lawsuit, Harp v. Hogan, which addressed the State of Maryland's failure to distribute much-needed federal and state unemployment benefits.

The Maryland Department of Labor's refusal to distribute already-paid-for federal benefits is an ab-

solute disgrace. While the State of Maryland spends hundreds of thousands of dollars to defeat our lawsuit, people continue to lose their homes, cars and possessions. Families have been made bankrupt and left without food and necessities.

The fight will continue. The Unemployed Workers Union will utilize every means necessary to secure the benefits thousands of people are still owed. We will review and assess other legal strategies. We will continue protesting. We will continue to call on the General Assembly to use its power to end the suffering of unemployed workers.

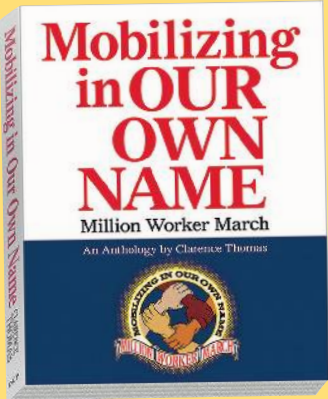
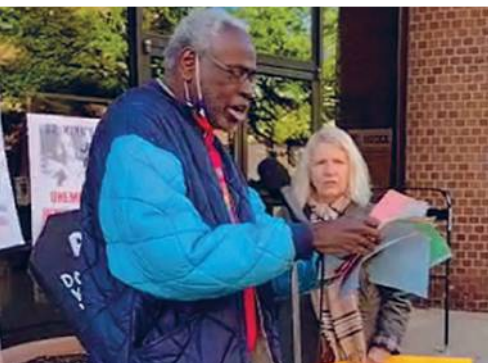
Both Gov. Larry Hogan and Labor Secretary Tiffany Robinson have remained arrogant and callous in their disregard for the rights of thousands of Marylanders who have still not received their benefits.

We will take our fight to the "court of the people" and we will win there! [M]



SLL PHOTO: ANDRE POWELL

Baltimore: Unemployed Workers Union protest at the office of Maryland Labor Secretary Tiffany Robinson, Nov. 1.



MillionWorkerMarch.com 'Mobilizing in Our Own Name' Anthology by Clarence Thomas

Struggles documented in news articles, interviews, letters, posters, photos, speeches and video transcripts.

Today's workers can no longer continue to depend on bourgeois politicians to address issues of systemic racism, income inequality, corporate greed, workers' rights, universal health care, slashing the military budget, and ending the murder of African Americans and people of color by police. The initiators of the Million Worker March (MWM) understood this, which is why they challenged the Democratic Party, the officialdom of labor, and others to organize the MWM.

Stop terrorist ‘no-knock’ police raids!

By Stephen Millies

Louisville, Ky., police with a “no-knock” search warrant broke down Breonna Taylor’s door after midnight on March 13, 2020, and started shooting. Six bullets struck the 26-year-old Black woman, killing her.

There were no Fourth Amendment rights against illegal search and seizure for Breonna Taylor. The police didn’t even search the home of the emergency room technician who helped save lives.

The Fourth Amendment didn’t apply to Alberta Spruill either. The 57-year-old city worker, a member of the Convent Avenue Baptist Church and AFSCME Local 1549, was looking forward to retirement. She liked to walk around her Harlem neighborhood and give candy to children.

Her life meant nothing to the dozen New York City police officers who had a no-knock warrant. At 6:10 am on May 16, 2003, they threw a flash grenade into Spruill’s apartment that stunned her. Two hours later she died of a heart attack.

On Nov. 21, 2006, Atlanta police with a no-knock warrant broke down the door of 92-year-old Kathryn Johnson. The cops fired 39 shots, killing the Black senior. Johnson was handcuffed as she lay dying.

Detroit police with a no-knock warrant invaded the home of 7-year-old Aiyana Jones on May 16, 2010. The Black girl was killed by a bullet fired by cop Joseph Weekly using a MP5 submachine gun.

An A&E network crew accompanied the cops, filming for the network’s police propaganda show, “The First 48.” Killer cop Weekly was a frequent star on cop shows. He was later cleared of all charges in the death of Aiyana Jones.

Jose Guerena was shot 22 times on May 5, 2011 — Cinco de Mayo — by a SWAT team with a no-knock warrant in Tucson, Ariz. The 26-year-old father of two children and Marine Corps veteran was killed.

He was sleeping at home after working a 12-hour graveyard shift at ASARCO’s Mission copper mine. Cops prevented medics from aiding Guerena for an hour.

Rockefeller’s police state laws

All these atrocities were war crimes in the war against Black, Latinx and all oppressed people. The killing of Breonna Taylor helped inspire 26 million people to take to the streets to declare “Black Lives Matter!”

No-knock raids are like the bloody U.S. “search and destroy” missions during the Vietnam War. Or the massacre of Lakota people at Wounded Knee.



People demand justice for Breonna Taylor in Nashville, Tenn., on Sept. 26, 2020.

There’s never been a no-knock raid against the banksters who stole over 7.8 million homes from families through foreclosure proceedings.

It was New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller who first demanded no-knock raids, which had been illegal. Rockefeller signed these laws that also authorized “stop and frisk” by police on March 3, 1964. Similar laws spread across the U.S.

Rockefeller’s family is Big Oil. It controls ExxonMobil and Chevron.

Nelson’s brother David was head of the Chase Manhattan Bank, now JP-Morgan Chase, with \$3.68 trillion in assets.

Fifty years before Nelson Rockefeller signed the no-knock bills, his family had striking coal miners and their families in Ludlow, Colo., killed with machine guns on April 20, 1914. Seven years after no-knock, Gov. Rockefeller ordered the Attica prison inmates slaughtered on Sept. 13, 1971.

There was immediate resistance to Rockefeller’s police state legislation. Hundreds of people came to a Harlem rally on March 7, 1964, to protest. Among the speakers was Jesse Gray, who led a rent strike in Harlem.

Because of the Black Lives Matter movement, 28 states and 20 cities have passed restrictions on no-knock raids since the murder of Breonna Taylor. They should be abolished altogether. [Solid square icon]

Raise the minimum wage (and give Marx a prize!)

By Gary Wilson

The typical winner of the Nobel Prize in economics is a 67-year-old man, born in the United States, who is working at the University of Chicago when he wins. That’s what science writer Maggie Koerth found.

Technically, there is no Nobel Prize in economics, Koerth explains. Instead, there is the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. It was first awarded in 1969 and is named after the central bank of Sweden — the Sveriges Riksbank — which funds it.

The Nobel Foundation doesn’t pay

out the award or choose the winner. Members of the Nobel family have spoken out against the award.

Nonetheless, the award was given out this year and the media calls it the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. David Card, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, got half of the Sveriges Riksbank award this year.

Card is credited for showing that raising the minimum wage doesn’t increase unemployment. That’s good and it’s certainly true.



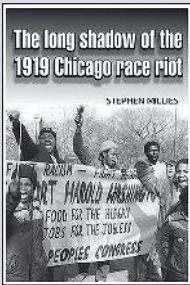
Protest supports raising minimum wage on April 29, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

Funny though: A prize was never given to the first economist to point this out.

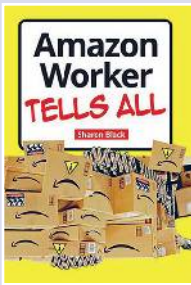
Back in 1865, Karl Marx’s lecture series to the First International workers’ association was a response to John Weston, who had said that raising wages would be harmful and therefore labor unions are harmful.

The first five chapters of “Value, Price and Profit” are Marx’s responses to Weston. The rest of the lecture series is a condensed preview of Marx’s “Capital,” which was published two years later in 1867.

Of course, it’s good that David Card was able to use the most modern research tools available to confirm that there is no downside to raising wages. Indeed, raising wages is an excellent thing to do, as Marx pointed out more than 150 years ago. [Solid square icon]



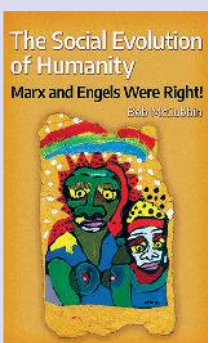
The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot Stephen Millies



Amazon worker tells all Sharon Black



‘Black August 1619-2019’ commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle



The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

Paperback or Kindle: tinyurl.com/vwarcv7

Berlin voters say: Expropriate the landlords!

By Gregory E. Williams

Renters around the world should watch developments in Germany’s capital city, Berlin. Housing activists there achieved a tremendous breakthrough by getting a referendum passed to expropriate the property of big corporate landlords owning 3,000 or more units. The referendum states that these properties are to be converted into public housing. The vote was 56.4% in favor.

Many of the properties in question were publicly owned to begin with; in the mid 2000s, the city privatized half of its 400,000 units, and there were previous rounds beginning in the 1990s, after the overturn of the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR) and the creation of a single capitalist state.

The campaign for the referendum, “Deutsche Wohnen & Co. enteignen” (expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co.), goes back to 2018. But it got a boost in April when a constitutional court struck down Berlin’s rent cap, which froze rents at 2019 levels for 90% of apartments for five years.

It was the big landlords and real estate investors, along with a coalition of right-wing parties, that brought the issue to court. Among them was Deutsche Wohnen, the campaign’s namesake, which alone owns 240,000 units, or 11% of all units in Berlin.

The court ruling was, therefore, the result of an organized capitalist assault on working-class Berliners, who had overwhelmingly supported the rent cap. Renters were enraged, as they say their rents jacked up during the pandemic.

But activists met the capitalists’ organization with their own. Dont Rhine, of the Los Angeles Tenants Union, spoke with referendum organizers and observed: “The referendum campaign mobilized large numbers of people to canvas neighborhoods. This meant organizing

neighborhood campaign captains and block committees to canvas buildings and have many tenant-to-tenant conversations.

“Much of this effort was organized autonomously from large organizations but conducted from within activist and social relationships. The grassroots nature of the mobilization also ensures an active base in possible future fights to ensure that the referendum is translated into law.”

Die Linke (the Left Party) and the Green Party supported the referendum, even though they did not spearhead it.

Broader lessons

Now, the challenge is for the movement to keep up the pressure so that the city government carries through with the expropriations. The referendum is not legally binding. However, with 80% of the Berlin population being renters and one victory already behind them, there seems to be a basis for intensifying the struggle.

The implications for the world outside the city are not being lost on commentators. Even a writer for the Guardian noted that “this successful campaign marks a potentially transformative moment — one that could have a major impact on housing struggles in other cities, and also serve as a template and inspiration for activists in Europe and elsewhere.”

There may be many strategic lessons here. For one, Berlin is showing that it is possible to take on the big landlords. Indeed, the sheer size of these corporate and financial entities could be their weakness.

As property companies grow to massive proportions, buying up more and more units, a basically new situation arises, and it mirrors the overall tendency of capitalism towards monopoly.

Historically, one barrier to tenant

organizing has been that housing ownership is dispersed. Tenants across a city might be facing similar situations, but they are dealing with countless different landlords. Apartment complex-level organizing has happened in many places, along with wider rent strikes. But now the situation is that there are, in Berlin as in cities around the world, thousands of tenants renting from the same landlord; In New York City, Blackstone Group owns some 13,000 rental units.

The Berlin referendum shows that it is possible to build an effective city-wide housing movement (and why not bigger?). Imagine thousands of tenants working together to take on their landlords, as union workers take on bosses.

What causes housing crisis?

In 1872, Frederick Engels entered into the German housing debate, penning three articles that were collected as “The Housing Question.” In these articles, Engels outlined fundamental dynamics of modern society that cause housing prices to rise over time.

Agricultural landed property is beyond our scope here. In regard to housing, Engels emphasizes that the industrial revolution led to rapid urbanization, which turned land in the cities into a scarce resource. Under capitalism, land is privately owned, because of historical processes of theft and dispossession — Marx and Engels called this primary accumulation.

If land is privately owned there will be a market for it. It will be bought and sold. The value of housing is determined in part by land and in part by what it costs to build the housing, as with any other commodity. Housing is produced by workers, and is a commodity in the strict sense; land has a capitalized value that goes back to the land owner via rent.

However, land determines the

value of housing — and by extension the price — in a special way, that is, through location. Property values and rents vary widely, depending on proximity of city centers, schools, hospitals, transportation infrastructure, etc. An apartment in Manhattan costs more than one the same size in a Midwestern town.

Public investment, as with roads, is a big part of the equation. Put another way, workers’ tax money increases the value of private property when it is used to improve an area.

The point of all this, for Engels, is that housing becomes a scarce commodity that eats up a huge portion of workers’ income. Workers are first exploited by the boss, and then made to part with even more of the value that their labor has produced in the form of rent payments.

When Engels was writing about the situation in Germany, housing scarcity was absolute. That is to say, there simply weren’t enough units to house all the workers who were moving to the industrial cities, and this drove prices up.

But it is now evident that the logic of capitalism reproduces housing scarcity even when homes sit vacant. This is the case in the United States today where some 17 million homes are vacant for one reason or another, according to U.S. Census data for 2017. Homes are scarce as commodities, and especially so for workers whose real wages have fallen for decades.

This trend has only been sped up through shocks like the 2007-2008 global financial crisis — through boom cycles of speculation and then foreclosures. The rapid financialization and monopolization of the Berlin housing market, for example, occurred following the 2008 Great Recession.

There’s no reason to assume that the long-term trend of soaring prices won’t continue. Currently, 55% of the world’s people live in urban ar-

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New York Times on cybersecurity: More like war propaganda

By Gary Wilson

The New York Times loves “dog bites man” stories, especially if they can say that the dog might be named Russia.

In journalism, you may have heard, if a dog bites a man that’s nothing; but if a man bites a dog, that’s news, in the words of Charles Dana, editor of the New York Tribune in the 1850s.

So why would the Times make any noise at all about a “dog bites man” story? The dog, in this case, is somebody or a group of somebodies who are trying to do a simple cyber break-in. The target (the “man”) is a Microsoft cloud system.

The Times even says that U.S. officials consider this to be a routine, “unsophisticated, run-of-the-mill operation that could have been prevented if the cloud service providers had implemented baseline cybersecurity practices.”

The break-in attempt, as described by Microsoft, is a simple password phishing attack on user logins. This is the most common type of break-in attempt that is carried out tens of thousands of times daily across the internet.

The Times story says that Microsoft recently notified more than 600 organizations that they had been the target of about 23,000 attempts to enter their systems. Yawn, this is news?

What Microsoft adds to its press release is that they think the source of these attempts is a group based in Russia. No proof of this assertion is offered and the Times gladly repeats this as if it were fact.

That’s a stretch.

Weapons of mass distraction

The Times’ writer is David Sanger, a sort of hired gun for war jingoism. Sanger, along with Judith Miller, created the legendary “weapons of

mass destruction” reports on Iraq for the New York Times. All of it was fiction.

Sanger was also an originator and promoter of the false claim of a Russian hack of the Democratic National Committee and top officials in the 2016 Hillary Clinton campaign. That accusation was used as a distraction after it was learned that WikiLeaks was about to publish emails that showed how Clinton and the DNC had intervened to block Bernie Sanders.

Too many still believe the Russia hacking and Trump campaign conspiracy story. But, like the weapons of mass destruction, it never happened.

What is real news, which was ignored by Sanger, is that Microsoft admitted that its weak security policies meant that a break-in was possible.

Microsoft says: “The attacks we’ve observed in the recent campaign against resellers and service providers have not attempted to exploit any

flaw or vulnerability in software but rather used well-known techniques, like password spray and phishing, to steal legitimate credentials and gain privileged access.”

Microsoft adds that it had updated its security requirements in September 2020 to reduce its vulnerability to “password spray and phishing,” but it had failed to enforce these policies. “We will [now] take the necessary and appropriate steps to enforce these security commitments.”

So why was the Times’ headline “Russia Challenges Biden Again With Broad Cybersurveillance Operation”? The only challenge was anonymous, not necessarily Russian, and the only target was Microsoft. And even Microsoft said it wasn’t a serious or significant challenge.

But as we’ve seen over the years, when the capitalists want war propaganda, truth is always the first casualty. 🇺🇸



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eas, and the United Nations reckons that it will be 68% by 2050. And what might happen as climate refugees flee from one region to another, putting pressure on housing and other infrastructure?

Engels' conclusion was that the housing problem could not be solved without abolishing the private ownership of housing, land and the rest of the economy. As long as housing is a commodity to be bought and sold, all attempts to improve the situation through rent caps or other policies, will be of limited benefit. This is why the fight for public housing has always been so important, even short of full socialist revolution.

The long view of German struggle

Modern German history, overall, provides a rich case study of the housing question, as the German people made great strides on this front and experienced tremendous setbacks. Germany has had capitalist and socialist systems.

Tenants waged major street battles in Berlin in the 1860s and 1870s, as in the Blumenstrasse riots of 1872. For days, thousands of workers battled the eviction of a carpenter family.

Along with Hungary, Germany almost became a socialist state as revolutionaries got the upper hand at the end of World War I. Though the revolutionaries were defeated, by the time of the Weimar Republic (1918-1933), workers' power had developed to such an extent that the constitution guaranteed the right to housing, ensuring "a healthy dwelling" for all people. The state introduced a rental income tax to subsidize the creation of public housing, introduced rent controls and more.

The Nazi regime undermined almost all social gains of the Weimar period. But after 1945, the socialist government of the GDR struggled to provide housing for all. Much of the housing was destroyed or damaged during the war, but because they were developing a publicly-owned economy, they were able to marshall the society to the cause of reconstruction.

The GDR expropriated big land owners and built "socialist new towns" like Halle-Neustadt in industrial boom areas, where city planners carefully designed the layout so that workplaces, shopping districts, recreational facilities, etc., were well integrated and accessible. Most importantly, they abolished the private housing commodity market.

Because of the extent of wartime damage and the GDR's isolation by the imperialists, it wasn't until the 1970s that they were able to truly begin addressing the housing shortage. Nevertheless, the average tenant paid only about 5% of income, and their lives were also integrated into broader support networks, like state-run childcare facilities and holiday camps provided by workplaces and mass organizations.

All of these things must be considered in terms of quality of life. The strides that the people of the GDR made were tremendous.

In the capitalist West, reconstruction got off to a much better start. This is because the West was traditionally more industrialized and prosperous, and suffered much less damage during the war. Further-



At a protest against high rents in Berlin, demonstrators hold a banner with the inscription 'Wohnen fuer Alle!' (Housing for All) on September 11, 2021.

more, as part of the Cold War strategy, Washington steered investment into West Germany in order to build the state up to undermine the GDR and the other socialist countries.

Nevertheless, despite the western Federal Republic's status as an explicitly anti-communist bludgeon, workers there enjoyed many advantages. The continued strength of the workers' movement and the pressure exerted by the mere existence of a socialist alternative at the border contributed to the fact that the Federal Republic was the biggest social spender in the Western world until the early 1970s.

Indeed, after World War II, the Deutsch Gewerkschaftsbund, or German Trade Union Confederation, created the biggest housing construction companies in all of Europe. They alone built some 400,000 publicly-owned apartments.

When the Federal Republic devoured the GDR in 1990, it was not just the socialist system in the East that was destroyed. Most of the achievements of the working class in the West were also dismantled through successive rounds of privatization.

Many German workers have an acute sense of what was lost, again, having experienced both socialism and capitalism, as well as a capitalism characterized by many concessions resulting from organized workers' power.

In President John F. Kennedy's famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech, he also said: "There are some who say that communism is the wave of the future. Let them come to Berlin." He meant to imply that life on the other side of the defensive wall was unbearable. Today, we can reverse this. If some say that the continued domination of capital is the wave of the future, let them come to Berlin, where the working class knows what they've lost.

Imperialism, migration and housing

In 2015, Margot Honecker, former education minister of the GDR and spouse of GDR leader Erich Honecker, gave an interview. She made the following observation about German imperialism:

"Let me remind you that the socialist GDR was a guarantee of peace in Europe. It never sent its sons and daughters to war. The Federal Republic of Germany, however, participates in bloody wars that the U.S. and NATO

instigate throughout the world.

"French Socialist Jean Jaurès (1859-1914) underlined this connection: 'Capitalism carries war within itself like the clouds carry rain.' And not only that. Capitalism also carries the seeds of fascism in itself. We had eradicated the economic roots of war and fascism in the GDR. The west of the country remained capitalist.

"In 1990, the GDR was absorbed into this society, which has caused so much harm in German history. The past was brought back. No one can name that 'revolution.'"

Today, Germany is the premier political and economic power in Europe, dictating austerity for weaker states like Greece. In 2021, Germany's spending for NATO hit a record high of \$63.8 billion. This is money that could go toward uplifting people.

German troops began occupying Afghanistan in 2003, and didn't be-

gin withdrawing until June of this year, as part of the U.S. exit. German imperialism, then, has been a key factor in the destabilization of West Asia. Like their counterparts in Washington, German leaders are to blame for the refugee crisis. In the first six months of 2021, 1,146 refugees died trying to get to Europe.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, over 30% of the population is made up of first or second-generation immigrants. The German military participated in imperialist intervention in the Syrian Civil War. So far in 2021, 40,472 new Syrian refugees have been counted in Germany.

The German state owes these people housing and more. The damage done, it is necessary that a large percentage of the existing housing stock be converted into public housing in order to accomodate all people fleeing war and climate disasters. [REDACTED]

Capitalism is the crisis

Democrats fiddle as climate emergency grows

Continued from page 1

The White House could have pushed harder to get the banks and corporations to pay for the entire spending bill. If they were looking for an easy target, Trump's tax break gift of \$2 trillion to the capitalist class was staring them right in the face.

If you add that to the \$2.1 trillion that parasitic corporations like Amazon, Walmart and others stole since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the total is far more than the original amount of the spending bill.

The real negotiations

Biden didn't have to cave in to Manchin and his hit squad. But the real center of power that the White House is negotiating with is the collection of giant banks, energy companies and other corporations – the capitalist class.

Big banks and oil companies put on an act that they are investing in "going green." But a study called Banking on Climate Chaos reported that seven U.S. banks have invested about \$13 trillion in fossil fuels in the six years since the Paris Climate conference.

JPMorgan Chase was out front with \$268 billion; Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Citibank are close behind. They're at the top of the list

globally. Their investments were in some of the biggest U.S. oil and gas corporations.

The U.S fossil fuel industry has not budged an inch in the interest of saving the planet, and the Democratic Party has done nothing about it.

The White House may try to put a good face on it, but the U.S. is lagging way behind the 2015 Paris goals to keep the rise in the earth's temperature below 2 degrees Celsius by 2030 or reach net zero carbon emissions by mid-century. The Glasgow conference is meant to strengthen those goals.

Further, the catastrophic weather events of 2021 have the world's climatologists studying the question of whether that timeline is adequate.

In mid-October, 655 people were arrested during "People vs. Fossil Fuels" protests in Washington, D.C. Youth blockaded a road while Indigenous leaders — the initiators of the protests — sat in at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, demanding that Biden call a climate emergency.

These brave activists have the right idea. Big Oil can't be negotiated away.

The people's movement that is needed has to be more than independent – it has to be revolutionary. To save the planet, capitalism must die. [REDACTED]

Biden targets China: Turning Taiwan into a military outpost

By Gary Wilson

The Guardian reports that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken threatened a U.S. military buildup in Taiwan in a “side meeting” at the G20 summit in Rome on Oct. 31.

The Guardian added that Blinken’s threat “came a week after Biden said the U.S. may support Taiwan’s independence militarily and Blinken called for Taiwan to be recognized within U.N. institutions.”

On Oct. 7, the Wall Street Journal reported that about two dozen U.S. special operations and support troops were “secretly operating in Taiwan to train military forces there for at least a year.”

The U.S. government officially recognizes that Taiwan is a province of China, not a separate nation. By a 1979 agreement, the U.S. promised to remove all military personnel from Taiwan.

Therefore, what the Biden administration is now doing — secretly sending military forces into the Chinese province — is in violation of both U.S. and international law.

The Chinese province of Taiwan, once a colony of Japan, now calls itself the Republic of China. The U.S. government decided to designate Taiwan as the government of all China after Mao Zedong proclaimed the People’s Republic of China on Oct. 1, 1949. Taiwan was never the capital of China, but it has been part of China for millennia.

To the people of China, Blinken probably sounds like a reminder of the European and Japanese colonialists of the 19th century who had seized Taiwan and other parts of China and used military force to “protect” their possessions.

Century of colonialism

In China it’s known as the “century of humiliation”: the years of dismemberment and subjugation by the European and Japanese imperialists from 1839 to 1949.

The First Opium War began in 1839. Britain grew opium in India and sold it in China, using the profits to purchase Chinese goods, including porcelain, silk and tea. When the Qing government in China tried to stop the importation of opium, Britain launched the “Opium War” to keep the drug flowing into China.

In the century of colonialism, China was fractured, with Outer Manchuria, parts of Northwest China and Sakhalin seized by Tsarist Russia; Jiaozhou Bay by Germany; Hong Kong and Tibet by Britain; Macau by Portugal; Zhanjiang by France; and Taiwan by Japan.

Japan was a relative latecomer to the imperialist club. Taiwan was its first colony. Japanese rule of Taiwan lasted from 1895 to the end of World War II in August 1945.

At the end of the war in 1945, the U.S. military, led by General Douglas MacArthur, occupied Japan and took charge of Japan’s colonies, particularly Korea and Taiwan. The U.S. military forces put Taiwan under the administrative control of the Kuomintang-led Republic of China, with Chiang Kai-Shek at the head. This

was a confirmation that Taiwan was a part of China.

Retrocession Day is the name given to the annual observance and former public holiday in Taiwan to commemorate the end of Japanese rule of Taiwan, and the retrocession (“return”) of Taiwan to the Republic of China on October 25, 1945.

From the end of World War II in 1945 to 1949, a war of liberation was fought by the People’s Liberation Army and the Communist Party of China, which led to the founding of the People’s Republic of China. In 1949, Chiang Kai-Shek and the Kuomintang army fled to Taiwan under U.S. military protection.

The U.S. strongly supported the Kuomintang forces against the Chinese Revolution. The Kuomintang received \$4.43 billion from the U.S., most of it military aid, according to William Blum in his book “Killing Hope.”

In June 1950, when the U.S. launched its war on Korea, the U.S. government also sent the Seventh Fleet into the Taiwan Strait with the Chinese mainland as its target. At the time, MacArthur wanted to use nuclear weapons against China — in an interview he said he would have dropped “30 or so atomic bombs.” MacArthur also wanted to use Chiang Kai-Shek’s forces in Taiwan to invade the mainland.

In 1949, Chiang Kai-Shek and the Kuomintang had declared martial law in Taiwan, imposing a brutal military regime that wasn’t lifted until 1987. During these decades of martial law, some 140,000 Taiwanese were arrested, tortured and imprisoned, according to a 2008 report by the Executive Yuan (government) of Taiwan. Some 4,000 people were executed.

Secret U.S. military operations

In the early 1950s, a secret group of U.S. military “advisers,” led by retired Adm. Charles M. Cooke, former commander of the Seventh Fleet, launched covert military operations in Taiwan to prop up the unpopular and weak Kuomintang regime.

The struggle over Taiwan has continued to this day.

After the victory of the Chinese Revolution and the formation of the People’s Republic of China, Washington proclaimed the military dictatorship in Taiwan to be the “Republic of China” and the government of all China. The Taiwan military regime was even given China’s seat in the imperialist-dominated United Nations!

The U.S. didn’t change this policy until 1972, when it was losing the Vietnam War.

In the 1972 Shanghai Communiqué, the U.S. agreed “that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States Government does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves.”



This was followed by the Normalization Communiqué of 1979, with the U.S. formally ending recognition of the “Republic of China” and agreeing to withdraw all U.S. military personnel from Taiwan.

However, the U.S. never stopped arms sales to Taiwan. These arms sales are supposed to be public and of a “defensive nature” only. The list of U.S. arms sales is publicly available on the Federal Register. Secret arms sales or operations are forbidden, which is what makes the Biden administration’s secret deployment of military special operations trainers a clear escalation of hostilities.

Following the 1979 communiqué, U.S. arms sales to Taiwan have increased every year. In 2020, the Pentagon announced more than \$1.8 billion in arms to Taiwan, including 135 precision-guided cruise missiles and rocket launchers.

Separatists vs. Indigenous Taiwanese

Following the end of martial law in 1987, a new political party emerged in Taiwan to challenge the Kuomintang. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is a Taiwanese nationalist party and currently controls the presidency and the Legislative Yuan. The Kuomintang remains as the second major party in Taiwan.

While the Kuomintang agrees there is only one China and opposes Taiwanese “independence,” the DPP claims Taiwan to be a separate nation. The Kuomintang is based on the mainland Chinese population that came with Chiang Kai-Shek’s military occupation force; the DPP is led by the Chinese who had preceded them.

Over 95% of Taiwan’s population of 23.4 million consists of Han Chinese, whose traditional ancestral homes are in the southern part of Fujian, China.

The Indigenous peoples in Taiwan are Austronesian Taiwanese, who make up 2.3% of the total population. The DPP does not represent the

Indigenous population and, in fact, is considered to be hostile to the Indigenous Taiwanese.

In 2016, during a legislative committee meeting, a DPP legislator used a racist, anti-Indigenous slur in responding to a request made by Indigenous legislators who opposed a move to lift a ban on Japanese food imports from the prefectures surrounding the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The DPP’s secessionist claim is getting support in the U.S., with Washington stepping up military and diplomatic support for the island’s government. This is part of the new Cold War the U.S. is waging against China.

The U.S. has expanded its naval operations in the South China Sea and Strait of Taiwan. The increasing frequency of the exercises by aircraft carrier strike groups is extremely provocative.

The recent sale of nuclear submarines to Australia as part of the formation of the AUKUS bloc was another aggressive move. AUKUS is an alliance between Australia, Britain and the United States that is clearly aimed at confrontation with China.

The reunification of China after the “century of humiliation” has always been seen as an essential part of building socialist China. The Chinese constitution states: “Taiwan is part of the sacred territory of the People’s Republic of China. It is the lofty duty of the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots in Taiwan, to accomplish the great task of reunifying the motherland.”

Without warfare or any kind of military incursion, China carried out the reunification of Hong Kong and Macau using an approach called “One Country, Two Systems.” Something like this was expected to happen with Taiwan, leading to a gradual reintegration. The Communist Party of China has always stressed its desire to achieve a peaceful reunification with Taiwan. 🇺🇸

12 years after coup, Honduran resistance fights for fair election

By Lucy Pagoda-Quesada

Twelve years have passed since the fateful 2009 coup in Honduras by the oligarchy, private companies and the leaders of the Catholic and evangelical churches. How can you forget Cardinal Oscar Andrés Rodríguez supporting the coup and asking the constitutional president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya Rosales, not to return to Honduras, his own country, in which he was democratically elected by the people?

We cannot and should never forget that the coup was supported by the U.S. government, at that time headed by Democratic President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

This crime against humanity is responsible for the deepening of the crisis and social, economic, and political chaos in which Honduras has found itself ever since. It's a country sunk in misery produced by natural disasters like Hurricanes Eta and Iota, due to climate change and global warming. But also by political disasters, such as the imposition of the narco-dictatorship of the National Party, and by a U.S. government which does not rest in maintaining its failed imperial and neoliberal model in Honduras.

U.S.-controlled dictatorships

We cannot forget that Honduras has always had a colonial relationship with the North American empire. That empire has always seen and treated us as its backyard.

It is where the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 and the famous Manifest Destiny has been most brutally implemented. Time has borne out the words of our liberation hero Simón Bolívar, who said, "The United States seems destined by Providence to plague America with miseries in the name of freedom."

And that is precisely what the U.S. has always done in Honduras. At the beginning of the 19th century, it turned our country into a banana enclave and enslaved thousands of Honduran peasants who worked in its banana prisons. In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan turned Honduras into his military platform, establishing there the pack of contras at the Soto Cano and Palmerola U.S. air bases, to fight against the revolutions in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Today, the U.S. Southern Command operates in Palmerola with about 600 military personnel, and across Hon-

duras there are another 12 U.S. military bases. Honduras has always been a geostrategically convenient country for the interests of the U.S. and a zone of exploitation of natural resources, such as mining, for large transnational corporations.

The North American empire has imposed its culture of domination in all spheres of our country — to the point that in Honduras the U.S. Embassy has always been the one in charge. We have never had true independence.

Besides our unionist hero Francisco Morazán Quesada, President Zelaya has been the only one who in modern times has dared to say, "Enough already!" and to demand respect for our dignity and sovereignty as a people. The result of daring to defend us was that they took him out of his own house at the point of bayonets on the early morning of June 28, 2009.

From that moment on, the Honduran people have risen in resistance and have been victims of the worst repressions, murder, forced displacement, political persecution, exile, and the whims of a brutal, nationalist narco-dictatorship that to this day continues to be fueled by the U.S. government.

However, as a people we have taken very important steps in our struggle for a true liberation from the imperialist and capitalist domination of Washington. In 2012 we turned the resistance movement into our political arm — the Libertad y Refundación (Freedom and Refoundation) or LIBRE Party. Inside and outside Honduras, we are organized and on our two feet in struggle. In the U.S., Latin America and Europe, there is resistance that is also LIBRE.

Most of the immigrant community, especially the most recent wave, is in opposition. And that is why in this electoral process the community has been the victim of one of the worst violations of its constitutional rights.

The narco-dictatorship of the National Party, through its Foreign Ministry, decided to leave us out of the new census that has been taken in Honduras and that issues the new National Identity Document (DNI) necessary to vote. Therefore most Hondurans abroad will not be able to vote.

Of the 300,000 Hondurans that we



LIBRE Party candidate Xiomara Castro at a protest against the Honduran government's planned Employment and Development Zones (ZEDES), Sept. 15.

had to register, we were able to register only 14,000, since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs removed the Census Kits after a week, arguing technical failures — something absurd. This is an abuse of our rights.

And that is why the D19-LIBRE in the U.S. has filed a legal suit before the Supreme Court of Justice in Honduras against the Honduran Foreign Ministry. It's a milestone in the history of the Honduran community against an institution of the Honduran state, for which we are awaiting a response. They will never shut us up or shut us down.

Stolen elections

As the LIBRE opposition, we have already participated in two elections that we have won (in 2013 and 2017), but with gringo intervention and the murderous repression of the narco-dictatorship, they robbed us of our victory by the force of bullets.

Terrible misfortunes have been perpetrated by the narco-nationalist puppets of the gringos in Honduras. One of the worst and most recent is the sale of our territory for the realization of the Employment and Development Zones, better known as ZEDES. These are large areas of our territory that are being handed to transnationals to build cities where Hondurans will not be able to live, since they will have their own governments and legal systems outside the Honduran state.

That is why the change of path in Honduras at this time is urgent and crucial. If we do not turn the political situation around and remove the narco-nationalists from power in the next elections of Nov. 28, we are condemned to lose the Honduras we know today to strangers. Honduras will no longer belong to us.

But we have an alternative: the LIBRE Party and our candidate Xiomara Castro, now in a pact of unity with the Partido Salvador de Honduras (PSH) and Pinu. Xiomara Castro is the only candidate with a true government plan that she publicly presented to the people. It is a government plan with a social and humanistic approach.

It is a plan designed for the needs of the people and above all for the

most unprotected and historically forgotten, which will begin to attend to them in the first hundred days of government, with education, health, housing, family reunification, food security and social security among many other programs that are non-existent at this time.

For the first time, attention will be given to science, the arts and sports, to the protection of our cultural heritage, and other issues that are fundamental for the development of a dignified and healthy society.

As Honduran people, we are at a crucial moment in our history. This is a unique opportunity to change the order of things. It's now or never. It is with Xiomara that we are going to achieve it.

Don't be fooled or sell your conscience. From here, in the D19 Department [North America], we ask that our family, friends and colleagues vote not only for yourselves, but also for us. We were practically left out of the process since only a few of us managed to enter the new census. But we understand that the outcome of the elections will be defined in Honduras. Behind the curtain and at the poll you have the power to change the Honduras that they have imposed on us for one that we deserve.

We need the vote to be massive so that there is not the slightest possibility that they will carry out fraud again. We need to protect the polls and not allow ourselves to be provoked or extorted by those who want to buy our votes. Remember that dignity is priceless, but it is worth a lot.

To the U.S. government and its embassy in Honduras, we say: If you do not want to continue facing the massive exodus of displaced people from your failed imperial and neoliberal policies, leave the Honduran people alone. Let us take charge of our present and future, let us elect the leaders we want, and stop imposing on us sellout puppets to do your errands and dirty work for you.

U.S. hands off Honduras!

Out with the narco-dictatorship! Xiomara president!

Pagoda-Quesada is a teacher and electoral campaign commission coordinator for Xiomara Castro in D19: U.S.

The U.S. has an obsession with Cuba

Continued from 10

come the trauma of having a rebellious island "almost within sight of our shores," as John Quincy Adams put it, and to top it all, without the slightest interest in being "the state that we lack between the entrance to the Gulf and the exit of the vast Mississippi Valley."

The great truth of all this, as Louis A. Pérez wisely comments, is that Cubans have learned from history, but Washington has not.

This article was produced by Glo-

betrotter. Rosa Miriam Elizalde is a Cuban journalist and founder of the site Cubadebate. She is vice president of both the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC) and the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP). She has written and co-written several books including Jineteros en la Habana and Our Chavez. She has received the Juan Gualberto Gómez National Prize for Journalism on multiple occasions for her outstanding work. She is currently a weekly columnist for La Jornada of Mexico City.

Nicaragua stands up to U.S. election interference

By Greg Butterfield

On Sunday, Nov. 7, voters in Nicaragua will go to the polls in elections for president, vice president and National Assembly representatives. According to polls, they are likely to hand a convincing victory to incumbent President Daniel Ortega and the Sandinista party. Wall Street, Washington and reactionary forces throughout Latin America are not happy about it.

Reports in mainstream U.S. media present as fact that the upcoming elections will be “fraudulent” and denounce “dictator” Ortega’s administration for detaining opposition leaders and businesspeople.

Left out is the fact that those who’ve been arrested, detained or disqualified from the elections have been exposed for participating in the violent 2018 anti-government protest movement and collaborating with Western governments and NGOs to halt the country’s progressive social reforms.

Rarely mentioned is that seven political parties, including pro-U.S. opposition parties, are on the ballot.

“It is every country’s right to defend its peace and sovereignty. That is what we will do, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The Nicaraguan people are the only ones responsible to resolve their problems,” President Ortega declared Oct. 26.

The Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has condemned U.S. Ambassador Kevin Sullivan. A Donald Trump appointee kept in his position by Joe Biden, Sullivan continues a long and inglorious tradition of U.S. diplomatic personnel coordinating counterrevolutionary plots and scheming with the CIA against the peoples of Latin America.

“We demand that Mr. Sullivan cease his covert attacks, his hypocritical salutations, disguised as a diplomatic courtesy that he abandoned long ago, and that rather has been, and is, an example of the continuous, perverse, detestable, invasive interference of the U.S. in our Nicaragua, so many abusive and criminal interventions that we have denounced and will continue to denounce,” according to the ministry’s Oct. 11 statement.

A delegation from the U.S., led by the Nicaragua Network/Alliance for Global Justice, visited the country from Oct. 3-10 to observe election preparations firsthand and investigate Nicaragua’s progress in the fight against COVID-19. The delegation met with numerous government officials and leaders of the National Assembly. They also traveled to cities and towns throughout the country to see Nicaragua’s public healthcare system in action.

At the end of the visit, the delegates condemned “the tsunami of false information generated daily by the U.S. State Department and its allies in the national and international media against Nicaragua” and called for “the mobilization of the entire progressive movement in defense of Nicaragua.”

On Oct. 18, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People’s Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP),

an alliance of Latin American and Caribbean countries that seek to be independent of U.S. domination, also condemned the U.S. and Organization of American States for “destabilizing attempts against the legitimate government of the sister Republic of Nicaragua.

“The Alliance welcomes the preparation of the electoral process of the Republic of Nicaragua. Moreover, it reaffirms its support to the Sandinista government, President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Vice President Rosario Murillo and the Nicaraguan people in their decision to continue defending the sovereignty, peace and notable social, economic and security advances, as well as the national unity achieved.

“The member countries of the Alliance call on the international community to reject [U.S.-directed] intimidations and to defend the sovereignty, the self-determination and the political independence” of Nicaragua.

Setbacks and advances

The Sandinista political party is the offspring of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), an alliance of guerrilla movements which overthrew the U.S. puppet Anastasio Somoza in 1979. The wealthy and brutal Somoza family had ruled the country nonstop since the 1930s. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) said in 1939, “Somoza may be a son of a bitch, but he’s our son of a bitch.”

Because of an unrelenting U.S. proxy war throughout the 1980s, coupled with internal differences in the FSLN, the Nicaraguan Revolution was not able to fully overturn the capitalist state and uproot the system of exploitation for profit. Nevertheless, great efforts were made throughout the decade to raise the living standards of the masses, eliminate illiteracy and increase access to housing and healthcare, in the midst of a civil war that killed more than 30,000 people.

(Washington famously funded the so-called “contra war” in part by flooding Black and other oppressed communities in the U.S. with cocaine — serving the additional purpose of accelerating racist mass incarceration of “surplus” workers here at home.)

In 1990, after years of bloody war and as counterrevolutionary developments overwhelmed Nicaragua’s socialist allies in the USSR and Eastern Europe, U.S.-allied Violeta Chamorro was able to capture the presidency. Over the next two decades, Nicaragua’s capitalist class rolled back many of the gains of the revolution.

The Sandinista movement was converted into an opposition political party with an essentially social-democratic program. Nevertheless, its strong popular roots allowed the party to reemerge as a force in the early 2000s with the rise of Chavismo in Venezuela and the subsequent “pink tide” in Latin America. In 2006, Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega was elected president again, and the party has led Nicaragua since.



Celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution in Managua, Nicaragua, July 19.

In 2018, a violent, far-right protest movement, financed and encouraged by the U.S. government, threw the country into chaos. It attempted to topple Nicaragua’s government the same way the right ousted Bolivian leader Evo Morales in 2019.

Fortunately the Sandinistas were able to weather this storm and begin rebuilding from the attempts to wreck the country’s economy, including U.S. sanctions.

‘Liberal’ media used against Nicaragua

A key role in the information war against Nicaragua is being played by some left/liberal media. These efforts aim to isolate Nicaragua by breaking down solidarity from supporters among Western progressives.

For example, British newspaper The Guardian has recently published articles attacking Nicaragua’s election process. An Oct. 22 piece by Guardian Latin America correspondent Tom Phillips sports the headline, “Nicaraguan business leaders arrested in Ortega’s pre-election crackdown.”

Leading off with the detention of Michael Healey, president of Nicaragua’s business association Cosep, Phillips quotes unnamed opposition activists who called it a “kidnapping” of “a key figure in the unusual alliance between student activists and big business that tried to topple Nicaragua’s strongman president in 2018.”

The Guardian then goes on to spread the slander, approvingly quoting right-wing newspaper La Prensa’s claim that Nicaragua is experiencing “a level of repression that surpasses even violent and oppressive governments such as Venezuela’s.”

Similarly, The Nation magazine has been drawn into the imperialist propaganda war, publishing a hit piece on Sept. 28 entitled “Why the media no longer cares about Nicaragua” by Eric Alterman. After reviewing the long history of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, Alterman then stands reality on its head, asserting that the current Sandinista government is somehow the modern version of the U.S. contras, shielded by Washington and media “elites.”

Alterman’s lies were exposed in a letter to the editor of The Nation written by Richard Kohn, a member of Friends Of Latin America, and shared with Struggle-La Lucha:

“The Nation should be embarrassed for publishing such right-wing drivel and CIA propaganda. ... Neoliberal governments that let their people starve while shipping

their resources north for a pittance are ‘free’ and ‘democratic’ and what we all want. Governments that try to improve the lives of their own people are corrupt Marxist dictatorships. ...

“In the 1980s, Stephen Kinzer corresponded for the New York Times, writing some of the most virulently anti-Sandinista lies that were dutifully repeated by most other outlets. The Nation was one of the few outlets that occasionally reminded us that the Sandinistas’ supposed human rights violations were exaggerated, and that they did improve the lives of many Nicaraguan people early after overthrowing the dictator Somoza and before the U.S. sanctions and war had their full impact. They had reduced illiteracy and poverty and built health clinics throughout the countryside, all achievements that were systematically attacked by U.S.-backed terrorists (Contras).

“Ortega returned to power in 2007 and Alterman claims he ‘proved himself not to be a [Bernie] Sanders-style democratic socialist’. That may be true. The Sandinistas built 21 hospitals, hundreds of health clinics, and low-income homes. They supported women’s rights and now Nicaragua is fifth in the world (after the Nordic countries) for gender equity. They did not legalize abortion because most of their population would not support it. They reintroduced free public education to everyone from primary school through university. I don’t recall Senator Sanders accomplishing anything like that.

“What the Sandinistas didn’t do is arrest people for running for office or speaking out against President Ortega. Some people were arrested for laundering money from the U.S. to promote violent protests, but none of them were candidates for office, although some became candidates after being arrested. The police eventually used force against violent street protests that had killed many bystanders and police officers in 2018. They did not censor the press or kill or torture journalists (that’s the U.S.).”

With the Biden administration continuing to promote anti-people, pro-war policies from Cuba and Venezuela to Colombia and Peru, it is important for workers, anti-war activists and progressive people not to be misled by the deluge of anti-Nicaragua propaganda.

We must be ready to take to the streets in solidarity with Nicaragua if the U.S. engineers another right-wing attack tied to the upcoming election. 🇳🇮

NYC rally demands: End sanctions on Zimbabwe

By Bill Dores

Oct. 25 is Zimbabwe Anti-Sanctions Day. That day was marked in New York City by the December 12th Movement, which led a militant march and rally at midday outside the U.S. Mission to the United Nations.

Carrying Zimbabwean and African liberation flags, the well-organized marchers chanted: "Fight on, ZANU-PF!" and "Sanctions are murder! End the sanctions now!"

The day of protest was launched three years ago when the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) passed a resolution demanding an end to devastating economic sanctions imposed on the African country by the United States, Britain and the European Union. SADC comprises the nations of Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The world's imperialist powers have imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe for nearly 20 years. Western ruling classes were outraged when the country's elected government, led by the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF), redistributed land stolen by British

settlers to landless Zimbabwean freedom fighters.

From 1964 to 1979, ZANU-PF waged a liberation war to free the country from white settler minority rule. Under the 1980 agreement that ended the war, Britain was supposed to pay white landowners to give back land their ancestors had stolen from African people at the point of British guns.

But Britain broke the agreement. So in 2000, Zimbabwe's revolutionary government asserted its rightful sovereignty over Zimbabwean land.

The sanctions, begun by the George W. Bush regime, were tightened by the Obama administration and made even harsher under Trump. Despite the overwhelming opposition of the countries of Africa and around the world, the Biden White House has refused to end them.

At the rally in New York, members of the December 12th Movement read statements condemning the sanctions by the foreign ministers of SADC states, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and the foreign ministers of China, Cuba and the Russian Federation.

Addressing the rally, D12 Chair, Viola Plummer, stressed that sanctions are murder. She said they are



At U.S. Mission to U.N. in New York, Oct. 25.

PHOTO: DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT

designed to deny Zimbabwe, a country rich in natural resources, the right to economic development. She pointed out that the poverty inflicted deliberately on Black communities in the U.S., the denial of access to resources, amounts to sanctions by another name.

Members of the Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper participated in the demonstration.

The very wealth plundered from Africa by the U.S., British and other Western ruling classes gives them the power to inflict sanctions on African countries. That stolen wealth must be returned. The people of Zimbabwe have a right to control their own land and resources.

Hands off Zimbabwe!

Reparations not sanctions! [icon]

Philippines: In memory of Ka Oris

By Communist Party of the Philippines

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the National Operational Command of the New People's Army (NPA) pay the highest tribute and give the firmest Red salute to Ka Oris (Comrade Jorge Madlos), erstwhile spokesperson of the NPA. Ka Oris, together with his medical aide, Ka Pika, were murdered in cold-blood on Oct. 29, 2021, as they were en route for his regular health checkup and to seek medical treatment. Ka Oris was 74 years old.

The entire Party, all revolutionary forces and friends of the revolutionary movement are deeply saddened by the death of Ka Oris. The Party, the New People's Army and the entire revolutionary movement lost an important cadre and leader. But the enemy has nothing to celebrate with his murder. Long before he was killed, Ka Oris had already inspired, trained and developed thousands of successors. His martyrdom further inspires the current generation and further generations to continue the people's democratic revolution through protracted people's war.

The Central Committee extends its deepest sympathies to Ka Maria Malaya, wife of Ka Oris, their children, as well as to his and Ka Pika's family and friends. The Filipino people are deeply saddened by their deaths. The broad masses, especially the countless peasants and Lumad people whom Ka Oris personally encountered in more than five decades of revolutionary service, feel a deep sense of loss with Ka Oris' death, but

at the same time, are enraged over how he was killed by the cowardly and dishonorable fascists.

We condemn in the strongest terms the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), particularly the 4th Infantry Division, for carrying out the murder of Ka Oris and Ka Pika and the subsequent lies propagated by military officers to cover up their crime. Ka Oris and his aide were aboard a motorcycle and traversing the road from the center of Impasug-ong town in Bukidnon province going to the national highway when they were ambushed by soldiers belonging to the 403rd Infantry Brigade.

The AFP could easily have arrested them as both were unarmed and were in no position to give battle. Instead, the fascists finished them off with bullets in a shameless demonstration of their cowardice. There is absolutely no honor in murdering a defenseless enemy. The claim that Ka Oris was killed in an armed encounter with an NPA unit is a gargantuan lie propped up by a multimillion aerial bombardment in a nearby mountain staged to create the impression of an intense battle.

We are aware that the plot to kill Ka Oris was personally directed by the tyrant himself. Without a doubt, the final order to kill Ka Oris was issued by none other than Rodrigo Duterte. Duterte is obsessed with murdering the leaders of the Party and the NPA on the mistaken belief that he could end the revolution by killing its lead-



Ka Oris

PHOTO: CPP

ers. On the contrary, Ka Oris' blood will further nourish the ground from which patriots, democrats and revolutionaries sprout and take root.

Ka Oris died a hero's death, murdered by the fascists while fighting for the cause of national and social liberation. To his last breath, Ka Oris was a true communist cadre and fighter. For more than five decades, he devoted his life wholly and unwaveringly to the cause of all the oppressed and exploited people to free them from the yoke of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

As a young student activist in the early 1970s, he was driven by the cause of democracy and social action, working to uplift the people from poverty and hunger. He helped organize his fellow students in the Central Mindanao University Musuan Campus in Maramag, Bukidnon. He was on his fifth year as a student of agricultural engineering when martial law was declared in 1972, which crystallized his decision to join the armed revolution.

He joined the New People's Army as a young man and belonged to one of the first squads of Red fighters who broke ground in Mindanao, particularly in Northern Mindanao. He played an important role in the growth of the NPA through the 1970s and 1980s. From a few squads, the NPA grew to several companies as they carried out mass work, military work and waging anti-feudal struggles. The NPA fought for the

interests of the peasant masses and Lumad people (ethnic minorities) and defended themselves against the armed agents of the state and big capitalist logging and mining companies and plantations which grabbed farms and ancestral land. ...

The love of the broad masses of workers and peasants for Ka Oris is matched only by the hatred of big landlords, the big bourgeois compradors, the mining companies, plantations, the bureaucrat capitalists, tyrants and dictators, and the fascist terrorists who perpetuate the oppressive and exploitative system. They have used all their wealth and resources to demonize and blacken the image of Ka Oris. The cowardly and dishonorable fascists are beyond themselves in celebrating their murder of Ka Oris. They are only fooling themselves in thinking that killing Ka Oris will put an end to the revolution. As Ka Oris himself said, the revolution will continue because it is just.

By taking away his life, the fascists have succeeded only in immortalizing Ka Oris. He now lives forever in the hearts and minds of the Filipino people as one of their heroes and icons. His indomitable spirit of revolutionary resistance continues to imbue the new generation of Party cadres and young Red fighters. It will serve to inspire future generations who will carry on the fight for genuine national freedom and social liberation, land for the landless and national industrialization, and for the emancipation of people from all forms of oppression and exploitation.

Read the full article here: <https://tinyurl.com/ye9mstfp>

Estados Unidos tiene una obsesión malsana con CUBA

Por Rosa Miriam Elizalde

La alcancía volvió a sonar. Hace menos de un mes, en septiembre de 2021, la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID) otorgó 6.669.000 dólares en subvenciones para proyectos destinados a un “cambio de régimen” en Cuba, eufemismo para evitar decir “intervención directa de una potencia extranjera”.

La administración demócrata ha favorecido especialmente al Instituto Republicano Internacional (IRI) con una generosidad bipartidista que jamás tuvo Donald Trump. También han recibido espléndidas partidas otros grupos de Florida, Washington y Madrid que han pedido la invasión a La Isla y pintan un panorama apocalíptico en La Habana, con lo que aseguran más dinero el próximo año.

Las arcas públicas de Estados Unidos parecen inagotables para la industria anticastrista. En el último año, al menos 54 organizaciones han sido beneficiadas con los programas para Cuba del Departamento de Estado, la National Endowment for Democracy (NED) y la USAID. Esta agencia le ha otorgado en los últimos 20 años a Creative Associates International, una tapadera de la CIA, más de 1.800 millones de dólares para el espionaje, la propaganda y el reclutamiento de agentes de “cambio” en la isla. Uno de sus proyectos más conocidos, el llamado “Twitter cubano” o ZunZuneo, resultó en un soberbio fracaso que develó una trama de corrupción y violaciones flagrantes de la ley estadounidense. El Zun-Zuneo le costó el puesto al director de la USAID, pero las operaciones de Creative Associates International se mantienen a toda vela, ahora de manera encubierta.

El investigador estadounidense Tracey Eaton, que durante años ha seguido la ruta de estos fondos, comentó en entrevista reciente que muchos de los programas de financiamiento para el “cambio de régimen” en Cuba son tan furtivos que probablemente jamás sabremos quiénes son todos los destinatarios ni el monto total, y a juzgar por los millonajes conocidos, la subvención debe alcanzar una

cifra faraónica. Las estrategias de “construcción de la democracia” se consideran “secretos de oficio” y están exentas de divulgación en virtud de la Ley de Libertad de Información estadounidense, según cartas que Eaton ha recibido del Departamento de Estado y de la USAID.

Estados Unidos se vuelve loco ante el supuesto indicio de intrusión rusa, china o islámica en la política local y en las plataformas en línea. Sin embargo, no duda ni por un minuto en intervenir groseramente en Cuba, como ha expuesto el diario digital MintPress News, que documentó cómo grupos privados de Facebook instigaron los disturbios del 11 de julio en varias ciudades cubanas. “La participación de ciudadanos extranjeros en los asuntos internos de Cuba está en un nivel que difícilmente se puede concebir en Estados Unidos”, dice la publicación y añade: “Las personas que provocaron las protestas del 11 de julio en Cuba siguen planeando acciones similares para octubre y noviembre”.

Los planes de subversión política de la superpotencia militar son una vergüenza y un escándalo, pero nada indica que Washington alcanzará ahora lo que no pudo en 60 años. De hecho, esta obsesión del gobierno estadounidense tiene dos siglos, como ha demostrado Louis A. Pérez, investigador

de la Universidad de Carolina del Norte, en un brillante ensayo titulado “Cuba como trastorno obsesivo compulsivo”.

“El tema de Cuba rara vez ha sido un tema de disquisición razonada. Desafía una explicación fácil, y ciertamente no puede entenderse única —o incluso principalmente— dentro de la lógica del cálculo de políticas que dan cuerpo a las relaciones exteriores de Estados Unidos, principalmente porque no hay lógica”, escribe el historiador.

Lo que sí tiene lógica es la permanencia en el tiempo de la “intransigencia” cubana. Ernesto Che Guevara solía repetir en sus discursos de los primeros años de la Revolución de 1959 que “Cuba no será otra Guatemala”. Es decir, su independencia del imperio estadounidense no sería boicoteada con bombardeos mediáticos primero, movilizaciones inducidas y ataques militares después.

La costumbre de derrocar alternativas independentistas es tan larga y la arrogancia por una abrumadora fuerza militar y mediática tan ciega, que el Gobierno estadounidense no ha logrado prever sus continuas derrotas ni ha superado el trauma de tener una isla levantisca “casi a la vista de nuestras costas”, como decía John Quincy Adams, y para colmo, sin el más mínimo interés de ser “el estado que nos falta entre la entrada al Golfo y la salida del vasto valle del Mississippi”.

La gran verdad de todo esto, comenta sabiamente Louis A. Pérez, es que los cubanos han aprendido de la historia, pero Washington no.


Este artículo fue producido para Globe-trotter y publicado primero en La Jornada. Rosa Miriam Elizalde es una periodista cubana y fundadora de Cubadebate. Es vicepresidenta de la Unión de Periodistas de Cuba (UPEC) y de la Federación Latinoamericana de Periodistas (FELAP). Es autora y coautora de varios libros, incluyendo Jineteros en La Habana y Chávez Nuestro. Por su destacada labor, ha sido merecedora en varias ocasiones del Premio Nacional de Periodismo Juan Gualberto Gómez. Es columnista semanal de La Jornada, México. 



FOTO: LUIS DE JESÚS

Una gran bandera cubana cuelga en el exterior del Hotel Habana Libre para honrar a los profesionales sanitarios que lucharon contra la pandemia del COVID-19.

The U.S. has an unhealthy obsession with Cuba

By Rosa Miriam Elizalde

The piggy bank was rattled again. In September 2021, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) gave \$6,669,000 in grants for projects aimed at “regime change” in Cuba, a euphemism to avoid saying “direct intervention by a foreign power.”

The United States’ current Democratic administration has especially favored the International Republican Institute (IRI) with a bipartisan generosity that Donald Trump never had. Other groups in Miami, Washington and Madrid that have also received generous amounts have been among those calling for an invasion of the island. These groups paint an apocalyptic panorama in Havana to secure greater funding next year.

Public funding for the anti-Castro industry in the United States seems inexhaustible. In the last year, at least 54 organizations have benefited from the State Department, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and USAID programs for Cuba. In the last 20 years, this agency has given Creative Associates International, a CIA front, more than \$1.8 billion for espionage, propaganda and the recruitment of agents of “change” including on the island. One of its best-known projects, the so-called “Cuban Twitter” or ZunZuneo, resulted in a superb failure that unveiled a plot of corruption and flagrant violations of U.S. law. ZunZuneo cost the USAID director his job, but Creative Associates International continues to operate, only now undercover.

The American researcher Tracey Eaton, who for years has followed the route of these funds, commented in a recent interview that many of the financing programs for “regime change” in Cuba are so stealthy that we will probably never know who all the recipients are or what the total amount is, and judging by the known millions, the subsidy must reach an even greater figure. According to letters from the State Department and USAID that Eaton has received, “democracy-building” strategies are considered “trade secrets” and are exempt from disclosure under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

The United States goes berserk at the alleged hint of Russian, Chinese or Islamic intrusion into local politics and online platforms. However, it does not hesitate for a minute to rudely intervene in Cuba, as exposed by the digital daily MintPress News, which documented how private Facebook groups instigated the July 11 riots in several Cuban cities. “The involvement of foreign nationals in the domestic affairs of Cuba is on a level that can scarcely be conceived of in the United States,” says the publication, adding: “The people who sparked the July 11 protests in Cuba are planning similar actions for October and November.”

The United States is a military superpower whose plans for political subversion are a shame and a scandal, and there is no indication that Washington will now achieve what it has failed to do in 60 years. In fact, the U.S. government’s obsession

with Cuba is two centuries old, as Louis A. Pérez, a historian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has shown in a brilliant essay entitled “Cuba as an Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.”

“The subject of Cuba has rarely been a topic of reasoned disquisition. It defies facile explanation, and certainly cannot be understood solely—or even principally—within the logic of the policy calculus that otherwise serves to inform U.S. foreign relations, mostly because it is not logical,” writes the historian.

What does make sense is the permanence in time of Cuban “intransigence.” Ernesto Che Guevara used to repeat in his speeches in the first years of the 1959 revolution that “Cuba will not be another Guatemala.” In other words, its independence from the U.S. empire could not be boycotted with media bombings first, induced mobilizations and military attacks later.

The custom of overthrowing independent alternatives is so long and the arrogance by an overwhelming military and media force is so blind that the U.S. government has not been able to foresee its continuous defeats nor has it over-

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